



Associated Press

George Bush with his daughter, Dorothy, before television interview

Bush Is Silent on Assessment of Soviet Aims

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2—George Bush, Director of Central Intelligence, today refused to say whether the United States intelligence community now believed that the Soviet Union was aiming for strategic superiority over the United States.

Answering questions on the CBS program "Face the Nation," Mr. Bush said that recent Soviet military developments had caused members of the intelligence community to "take a new look and revise estimates" of the Soviet Union's strategic objectives.

He said that the new National Estimate of Soviet Strategic Capabilities and Objectives completed and approved Dec. 21 was a result of "competitive analysis" by the community's regular intelligence estimators as well as a group of outsiders. "People took a look at the same data and came up with different conclusions," he said. But he refused to give his own opinion.

Mr. Bush said he was "appalled at the leaks" and the "lack of discipline" of some intelligence officers and outside estimators that led to press reports about the latest estimate.